

REMARKS

By this Amendment, existing claims 1-10 have been cancelled and new claims 11-20 have been presented for examination. Therefore, on entering this amendment, claims 11-20 are all the claims pending in this application.

Claims 1-3, 6-7 and 10 have been rejected as being anticipated by Mentler (4,308,577).

The Applicants traverse the rejections and request reconsideration.

Since the existing claims have been cancelled, the rejections are now moot.

The following discussions highlight distinctions between the new claims 11-20 and the cited reference Mentler.

The present invention, as claimed in claims 11 and 20, requires that either a first operation or a second operation mode be selectively performed. In the first operation mode, the voltage between the gate and the emitter of the switching device is kept either positive or negative during at least one cycle of the control signal.

Non-limiting examples are shown in the marked-up attached Figs. 2a and 2b. The waveform shown in Sketch 1 may be realized by the first operation mode. In the second operation mode, the voltage is switched between positive and negative within one cycle of the control signal. This is further clear by comparison between the embodiment shown in Fig. 2c of the present specification and Fig. 3 of Mentler. In the attached marked-up figures, one cycle of the control signal is functionally defined for the respective cases.

Mentler can merely perform the claimed second operation mode. On the other hand, Mentler does not disclose (or remotely suggest) performing the claimed first operation mode nor the claimed selection between the first and the second operation modes.

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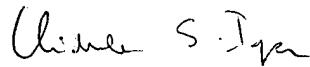
Claims 12-19 are dependant on claim 11, and therefore, patentable at least for the same reasons.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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